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Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area News Release

Date: July 12, 2004 For Immediate Release Contact Lee Snook (509) 738.6266 ext 115

Perseid Meteor Shower Overnight Canoe Trip

Kettle Falls, WA -- Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area announces their annual Meteor Shower

Overnight Canoe Trip, Saturday through Sunday August 14 -15, 2004.

As an increasing number of open spaces are converted to urban or suburban areas, the beauty and wonder of the night sky is disappearing. The universe becomes obscured by the dull electric glow of every street lamp, house light and neon sign that casts its light into the night sky, making places of undisturbed darkness like Lake Roosevelt vital and unique.

Once again the annual Perseid meteor shower is coming and you have the opportunity to view them unencumbered by artificial light.

Join Park Rangers and volunteers for a relaxing overnight canoe trip to watch the Perseid Meteor Showers, one of the best showers of the year. This is a good year for Perseids since the Moon is new in mid-August and won't hamper stargazing.

By August 12th when the shower peaks, stargazers could see as many as 100 meteors per hour shooting out of the constellation Perseus in the northern sky. An average Perseid meteor is about as bright as the stars in the Big Dipper, and they are noted for their colorful, long-lasting trails.

The tour begins at the Kettle Falls Visitor Information Center at 3:00 PM for required orientation and safety lessons. Bring your personal vehicle. We will caravan to the Snag Cove campground where we will begin our canoe trip and take out for a night of camping and stargazing at Summer Island. Sunday we will end around our trip around noon, by canoeing to Marcus Island.

The life vests, paddles, and six canoes are provided. Bring everything you will need for a night of camping and day of canoeing: water, dinner, tent, sleeping bag, sunscreen and a hat. There are fire-rings and vault toilets on the island. Weather permitting. Any person under 18 must be accompanied by adult. No pets, please. The Kettle Falls Visitor Information Center/Bookstore is located 500 feet before the Kettle Falls Marina.

You must register for this event. For further information and to register please call 509.738.6266 ext.115 or visit the park web site www.nps.gov/laro/home.htm.

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